

Wassner Brewery  
(American Brewery)  
1700 North Gay Street  
Baltimore City  
Maryland

HAER No. MD-25

HAER  
MD,  
4-BALT,  
146 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
EQUATIONS...

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERINGS RECORD

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~~W~~IESSNER BREWERY  
(American Brewery)

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Date: 1887

Location: 1700 North Gay Street  
Baltimore City, Maryland

Designed by: unknown

Owner: American Malt Company

Significance: Built by brewmaster John Frederick Wiessner (1831-1897) to replace his older, smaller brewery of 1863 on the same site. The flamboyant brewhouse, the complex's overwhelmingly distinctive feature and a NE Baltimore landmark, is one of the finest surviving American examples of the Teutonic Brewery style, fondly referred to locally as "Germanic Pagoda." It has stained glass windows, three incredible towers, and an altogether commanding silhouette. Despite its distinction, however, no records have been found identifying the architect.

The brewery was operated by Wiessner, and later his sons, to 1920 when Prohibition dried up beer production. During the drought the plant was operated by the American Malt Co; after 1931 that firm resumed brewing. When erected, the new brewery was one of 21 in Baltimore and vicinity. Its production was 1000-1500 barrels per year, about .07% of the national production.

A sizeable complex of buildings surrounds the brewhouse on both sides of Gay Street, among them a boiler house and engine room (steam was used to heat the mash from an early date, when most brewers still were using direct heat); cavernous stock cellars, on four underground levels, of brick and stone with cast-iron columns and wrought-iron beams; a pub or beer garden (not a little of the product must have been consumed on the premises); bottling houses; a cooperage shop; and several office buildings. Across the street is a three-story townhouse surrounded by a

brick and cast-iron fence, the residence of Weissner and family. Its large size was strictly functional, for it housed not only the family but workers newly arrived from Germany.

The complex, known today as the American Brewery (the American label), has been out of commission since 1973 and presently is on the market, with considerable thought being given to its adaptation to some municipal function. Most of the equipment has been removed, except some large vats in the brewhouse.

Transmitted by;

Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1983 with material from the National Register Nomination Form.

Addendum to:  
WEISSNER BREWERY  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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Data pages 1 and 2 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.  
This is data page 3.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (\*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

- 12 5" x 7" glass plate negatives (6 stereopairs) produced by  
Perry E. Borchers of the Ohio State University in 1971.

One survey control contact print from each plate; survey  
control information for each pair.

LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-101L *	ANGLED VIEW FROM NORTH--LEVEL
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-101R	ANGLED VIEW FROM NORTH--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-102L *	ANGLED VIEW FROM NORTH--INCLINED
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-102R	ANGLED VIEW FROM NORTH--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-103L *	NW (FRONT) FACADE, EAST END--LEVEL
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-103R	NW (FRONT) FACADE, EAST END--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 75%

**WEISSNER BREWERY**  
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**Data (Page 4)**

LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-104L *	NW (FRONT) FACADE, EAST END--INCLINED
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-104R	NW (FRONT) FACADE, EAST END--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-105L *	NW (FRONT) FACADE, WEST END--LEVEL
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-105R	NW (FRONT) FACADE, WEST END--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 75%
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-106L *	NW (FRONT) FACADE, WEST END--INCLINED
LC-HAER-GS05-B-1971-106R	NW (FRONT) FACADE, WEST END--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 75%

- 3 Stereopair sets of 2.5" x 2.5" master contact prints  
mounted on 5" x 7" cardstock; photographer unknown.

No survey control information; overlap not calculated; copy  
prints and copy negatives have been made from both prints  
for each pair.

LC-HAER-PS13-2000-801 *	FRONT VIEW--ANGLED
LC-HAER-PS13-2000-802 *	FRONT AND SIDE ELEVATIONS--ANGLED VIEW
LC-HAER-PS13-2000-803 *	FRONT ENTRANCE

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

The Photogrammetric Images Project was a cooperative endeavor between the HABS/HAER Division of the National Park Service and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The reference prints and film copy negatives of the original plates were made by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service with funds provided by the Library of Congress Flat Film Preservation Fund. Additional reproductions were made by HABS/HAER. The project was supervised by HABS/HAER Architect John A. Burns, AIA, and completed by HABS Historians Jeanne C. Lawrence (University of London) in 1985 and Caroline R. Alderson (Columbia University) in 1986.